and a humble request that appropriate steps be taken to see that cases pending with regard to eviction, but that I mean eviction suits of garden lands in Municipalities not only in regard to suits pending but with regard to suits decreed but not executed, not in regard to decrees passed but not executed, but even the next stage if it is not completed, there is an interregnum stage and that is after the decree it can be kept without execution but which can be put into execution at a later stage, are saved so that those tenants may not be divested of their property. My earnest and humble prayer is that a Royal Proclamation may immediately be arranged to be passed subject to the trial of suits, staying the execution of decree pending and which may be in any stage whatsoever. This is the purpose for which I thought it necessary to intervene in this debate. By that I do not mean that this is an indication for others not to speak. I request to be excused for that if any Hon'ble Member has taken it in that light. This is the purpose for which I rose to speak on this Bill.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* Sir, the Hon'ble mover of this Bill has brought to the notice of the House the chequered career of a Bill of this nature, which he tabled before this House on a former occasion. Government then opposed the Bill, but since it is found that several amending Bills to the Verumpattamdars Act have been tabled in the House, Government have for the present taken the view that all these Bills may be considered on their merits with an open mind. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not point out to the House that it is not proper to classify all landlords as capitalists. Every lessor is a landlord so far as the Verumpattamdar is concerned. Such a landlord may own only the plot that has been leased out by him to the Verumpattamdar. Can you call such a landlord a capitalist and treat him in the same way as you may in respect of a landlord who owns thousand acres of land? This is only by way of stimulating your thoughts on the question whether you are not prejudicing the interests of those who belong to the middle class. If justice is to be done to both the parties, matters must be viewed within the realm of actuality. At the time the original Verumpattamdars Act was considered by the Select Committee, the housing problem was not seriously considered by them. It is now very strongly pointed out by the Hon'ble mover of this Bill that the housing problem has become very serious. This is a matter to which special attention will be devoted.

We have been told by the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri that irrespective of views that may be advanced, this amending Bill will be placed on the Statute Book. This means that he forestalls that Select Committee will not be open to conviction. An announcement of this nature is bound to create a feeling of despair and I do hope that unaffected by the opinion of that Hon'ble Member, the Select Committee will keep an open mind and consider all relevant aspects in their mind before taking a decision. Let me hope that just and right decisions will be taken so that there may be no embarassment to the Government.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin Christian-Ernakulam):* Sir, I am glad that Government are not opposing this bill and the intention is to refer it to a Select Committee, which I understand has already taken some action in the matter. At the last meeting of the Select Committee which is considering Mr. Krishnan Ezhuthassan's Bill a recommendation was made about this Bill, namely to stay proceedings in law courts in cases where eviction of Verumpattam tenants within Municipalities are concerned.

Motion put and carried

Secretary to the Council : The title of the Bill is the Cochin Verumpattamdars' Act (Amendment) Bill.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin Christian-Ernakulam):* Sir, I move that this Bill may be referred to the same Select Committee which is considering Mr. Krishnan Ezhuthassan's Verumpattamdars' Act (Amendment) Bill.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu):* I second it.

Motion put and carried

NON-OFFICIAL RESOLUTIONS—*(cont.)*

6. The Agrarian Problems of the State—*(cont.)*

***Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri):* Mr. President, Sir, while the House rose yesterday I had just dwelt with a point or two according to my likes on the subject. Today, Sir, I can very profitably begin this discussion by giving a quotation from a certain

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report which will be very helpful for a discussion on this resolution. "Poverty is the central fact of Cochin life—poverty, economic, intellectual and physical; and without tackling this pivotal problem, all efforts at advancement must be ineffective. Educational reforms and public health propaganda are of little avail so long as these conditions continue. Indeed, the advance must be all-round: poverty in all its phases must be simultaneously attacked; but as physical and intellectual (even spiritual) poverty cannot be effectively tackled without a substantial reduction in economic poverty, the main effort at the first stages must be economic." With these very illuminating sentences from one of our distinguished lamented officers—I do not wish to disclose his name—I would like to stress this point.

Yesterday the Hon'ble mover of the resolution as also the Hon'ble Minister, who though not in charge of Agriculture was pleased to intervene in this debate, but not in his seat just now, but I am glad the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture is there—the news may be carried on to him—at that time and gave us a very helpful show, at least a helpful attitude as far as the agrarian question is concerned. The purpose of the resolution of my Hon'ble friend, the mover of the resolution, is to appoint a Committee. It has been stated in the resolution, the wording there is a Committee of this House, there was a suggestion made that that Committee need not be members of this House that was stressed by the Hon'ble Minister Mr. Govinda Menon, and accepted by the Hon'ble mover of the resolution. There is no difficulty there. The central factor, namely, the immediate appointment of the Committee was gladly accepted, whole heartedly accepted, by the Minister referred to by me. That being so, Sir, on the merits of the resolution absolutely no speech is necessary, in that I am not hinting that others may not speak. Sir, my purpose in intervening in this debate is this. I am generally one who follows the debate of this House with an undue attention, though not in my seat at times and that for very good reasons, every word that is uttered within this holy chamber, I call it, will be striking my timbenum, because I will be loitering somewhere and doing something physical, and useful. I am always for the tenantry of Cochin. I was submitting, Sir, that though the categorical statement of the Hon'ble Minister was his willingness, his eagerness to appoint the Committee, and the work to be done by the Committee, was also so particularly enunciated by him and the Hon'ble mover himself by his resolution takes this view. I may say, that it is a fact finding Committee that wanted. It is really so because statistics on very vital things and thus there can be nothing more vital and statistics are wanted. It is a very sorrowful picture for the Government of Cochin to have no sort of statistics. I must tell you that our Hon'ble representatives have not been in possession of any statistics, perhaps it may be because you have been in office only for a short time. If you have not taken the statistics, of course, the position is something difficult. I believe that you have already taken steps to see that necessary statistics upon every subject necessary is had in the minimum of time. But restriction of time should not lead to wrong figures. What I mean is that the absolute minimum time may be taken. If you cannot have the statitics by Makaram you should have the statistics by the Budget Session at the latest. Then you should be in a position to say, "here are the statistics." Let there be volumes indexed. Have it. That should be the sort of Government we want and I am sure that is going to be the Government in future. Now, Sir, in the observations made by the Honble Minister, I find, Sir, I am sorry that I have to make this observation, in his absence, I need not succeed in finding any amount of earnestnees....

Mr. Puthur Achutha Menon *(Kattur)*: Question.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: I have heard your question, I refute it. I will enunciate my proposition and substantiate it by necessary arguments, even to the extent of convincing the Hon'ble Member. There was a certain statement in the Hon'ble Minister's speech. I have got a copy of the speech. I have myself taken down his speech, as he was saying. My hand is quick. The Hon'ble Minister was pleased to say, Sir, that necessary legislation as and when necessary according to the Government will be undertaken. That latter portion is mine. Naturally it is a common inference that follows. There are other statements following. Legislation will be had. Now, Sir, that is not a case to be informed, in this House. Now, Sir, you will be pleased to suggest for the appointment of a Committee of the desired type, not of the type of the one, two or three committees that have been recently appointed, Now, Sir, you are appointing such committees and call them Committees. Of course you can understand what I am referring to.

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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Mr. P. Sankara Menon *(Trichur-South):* Are you a member of any of the Committees 1, 2 or 3?

***Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** (*Vadakkancheri*):* It is not necessary for me to attempt to answer the interjector. Now, Sir, when Committees are asked for, in the name of Committees you have done certain things. You had categorically stated that after accepting the proposition for the appointment of a Committee nothing than a Committee will find its place. That is the subject matter of the discussion and in the matter of the Committee itself there was in the course of the discussion the words 'a man experienced' used although it does not find a place in the resolution. One of the Hon'ble Members fortunately stated that it may be a Committee of experts. I want to inform the Government of Cochin that there need be no experts, because I am completely sick of these experts. These experts are technically experienced men, but there was a helpful suggestion from my Hon'ble friend, the Hon'ble Minister, that it must be filled by experts, though the Hon'ble speaker who preceded him meant by expert, as a knowing member. Expert member according to him, is a member knowing the subject and nothing else. Agrarian problem is knowledge of how to get the maximum work from the worker. Of course that is not anything high. But we want a man who will know the agrarian question in all its ramifications. It is not my purpose to give a pointed reference to the Committee. That will be done by Government. I expect the Hon'ble Minister to take a note of these things. Let it be a Committee, a Committee of the right type, excluding technical experts but having persons knowing the subject in hand. This is a question which affects 95 per cent of His Highness' loving and loyal subjects. Hence my request is try to tackle it in the best way possible.

The House rose for lunch at 1-30 p.m. and re-assembled at 2-30 p.m. with the Hon'ble Deputy President, in the Chair

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. മാണി: സർ, യഥാർത്ഥകൃഷിക്കാരന്റെ ഇന്നത്തെ നിലയെന്താണ്, അവന്റെ എങ്ങനെയുള്ളൊരു ഭാവിയാണുണ്ടാകാൻ പോകുന്നത് എന്നുള്ളതിനേയും അവരുടെ ഭാവി എത്രതരത്തിലുള്ളതായിരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതിനേയുംപറ്റി ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതിന് ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ വെക്കുകയെന്നുള്ളത് ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. അതു് ഒരു വിദഗ്ദ്ധകമ്മിറ്റിതന്നെയായിരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തോട് ഞാൻ വളരെ ശക്തിയായി യോജിക്കുന്നു. ഈ വിഷയത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു എന്റെ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതൻ വടക്കാഞ്ചേരി മെമ്പർ It is the most important question of questions എന്നു പറഞ്ഞതിൽ യാതൊരതിശയോക്തിയുമില്ല. ഇന്നത്തെ ലോകത്തിൽ, ഇന്നത്തെ കൃഷിക്കാരൻ ഒരു ചോദ്യചിഹ്നം മാത്രമാണെന്ന് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നു. അവൻ രാപകലില്ലാതെ പണിയെടുത്തു പട്ടിണികിടന്നു ഒരു ചോദ്യചിഹ്നംപോലെയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. അവരുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി നാം ആരായുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ, അവൻ ഏതൊരു നിലയിലാണ് എത്തിച്ചേരുന്നതെന്നു നമുക്കു നിശ്ചയിക്കാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. നമ്മുടെ കൃഷിക്കാർ ഈ നിലയിൽ എത്തിച്ചേർന്നതു് എങ്ങിനെയാണെന്നുകൂടി ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ നാം ആലോചിക്കണം.

അതിനു് പല പ്രധാനകാരണങ്ങളുണ്ട്. ജനസംഖ്യ വളരെ കുറവായിരുന്നകാലത്തു്, നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിൽ വളരെ ഭൂമികിടന്നിട്ടും കൃഷിചെയ്യാതെ കിടന്നിരുന്ന കാലത്തു ഭൂമിയിൽ സ്വതെതന്നെ ചേർന്നിരുന്ന വളംകൊണ്ടു് അപൂർവ്വം ചിലപ്പോൾ കൃഷി ചെയ്തിരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടും ഭൂമി നന്നായി വിളഞ്ഞിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ജനസംഖ്യ വർദ്ധിക്കുകയും എല്ലാ സ്ഥലവും തുടർച്ചയായി കൃഷിചെയ്തു തുടങ്ങുകയും ചെയ്തതോടുകൂടി ഭൂമിയുടെ വിളവു കുറയുകയും ഈ കുറവിനെ നികത്തത്തക്കവണ്ണം വളം ചേർക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സൌകര്യം കർഷകനില്ലാതെ വരികയും ചെയ്തതോടുകൂടി കർഷകന്റെ സ്ഥിതി വളരെ ശോചനീയമായിതീർന്നു. അതിനോടൊപ്പംതന്നെ ഇന്നത്തെ ജന്മി സമ്പ്രദായവും കൃഷിക്കാരെ എന്തെന്നില്ലാത്തവിധത്തിൽ അധഃപതിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ സമ്പ്രദായമാണ് അവന്റെ ആദായത്തിൽ ഫ ൦ ൦ക്കു൯ ശതമാനവും അനുഭവിക്കുന്നതു്. അതു് ഇല്ലായ്മ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു് ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. മറ്റൊന്നു്, അവന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കു ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യമായ പല സാധനങ്ങളും ഇന്നവനു ഉപയോഗപ്രദമായ രീതിയിൽ ലഭിക്കുന്നില്ല എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. അതിനുള്ള ഗുണങ്ങളും കുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഉദാഹരണം പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ, ഇന്നു കൃഷിക്കാരനു് ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യമായ കന്നുകാലിയെതന്നെയെടുത്തുനോക്കുക. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഞാൻ ഈയിടെ ഒരു പുസ്തകം വാ

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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യിക്കയുണ്ടായി. ഡന്മാക്കിലെ ജനസംഖ്യയും ഇന്ത്യയിലെ ജനസംഖ്യയും വെച്ചു താരതമ്യപ്പെടുത്തുമ്പോൾ അവിടത്തേക്കാൾ ഇവിടെ വ ഇരട്ടി കന്നുകാലികൾ കൂടുതലുണ്ടു് എന്നാണു് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ ഡന്മാക്കിൽ ഒരാൾക്കു് ഏന്നു ഔൺസു് പാൽ വീതം കിട്ടുമ്പോൾ ഇന്ത്യയിൽ ഒരാൾക്കു് ഒരൗൺസു് പാൽ വീതംപോലും കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. ഇന്ത്യയിൽ വളരെയധികം കന്നുകാലികളുണ്ടെങ്കിലും, ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ഒരൗൺസു് പാൽ വീതമെങ്കിലും കൊടുക്കുവാനുള്ള പശുക്കൾ ഇവിടെ ഇല്ല എന്നുള്ള പരിതഃസ്ഥിതിയിലാണു് നാം എത്തിച്ചേർന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഈ നിർഭാഗ്യകരമായ പരിതഃസ്ഥിതിക്കു വ്യത്യാസം വരുത്തുവാൻ നാം ശ്രമിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. ഇന്നു നമ്മുടെ കന്നുകാലികൾ ദിവസംപ്രതി ക്ഷയിച്ചുവരുകയും, അവയുടെ എണ്ണം വർദ്ധിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. മുമ്പു് ഒരു ജോഡി കാളയെക്കൊണ്ടു് ഉഴതിരുന്ന നിലം ഇന്നു് ഉഴുവാൻ നാലു ജോഡി കാളകൾ വേണം. എന്നാൽ കൃഷിക്കാരനാണെങ്കിൽ ഈ നാലു ജോഡി കാളകളെ രക്ഷിക്കാനുള്ള ശക്തിയുമില്ല. ഇതിനുള്ള പരിഹാരം കണ്ടുപിടിക്കാനാണു് ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ വെക്കണം, അതു വിദഗ്ദ്ധക്കമ്മിറ്റിയായിരിക്കുകയും വേണമെന്നു പറയുന്നതു്.

അതുപോലെ അവന്റെ ഭാവിയെ സ്പർശിക്കുന്ന മറ്റൊരുകാര്യം കൂടിയുണ്ടു്. ഇന്നു് അവനുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന സാധനങ്ങൾ വിപണിയിൽ വേണ്ടപോലെ വിറ്റഴിക്കാൻ അവനു സാധിക്കുന്നില്ല. കൃഷിക്കാരനുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന സാധനങ്ങളുടെ വിലയിൽ ഏറ്റം ഗുരുതരമായ വ്യത്യാസം അനുഭവിക്കുന്നതു് ഇന്നു് ഇടത്തട്ടുകാരനാണു്. കർഷകനും ഉപഭോക്താവിനും ഇടക്കു നില്ക്കുന്ന, കായ്മായ യാതൊരു ജോലിയും ചെയ്യാത്ത ഇടത്തട്ടുകാരനാണു് ഇന്നു കൂടുതൽ ആദായം എടുക്കുന്നതു്. അവരെ ഒഴിക്കേണ്ടതു് ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. അതിനുവേണ്ടി ശരിയായി സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള മാർക്കറ്റിംഗ് സൊസൈറ്റികൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കേണ്ടതു് ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. അതുപോലെ ഇന്നു കൃഷിക്കാർ അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ, അവരുടെ കായ്ങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കുന്നതിനു് ഒരു വിദഗ്ദ്ധക്കമ്മിറ്റിയെ നിശ്ചയിക്കേണ്ടതും, അതിന്റെ റിപ്പോർട്ടനുസരിച്ചു പുതിയ നിയമങ്ങൾ സൃഷ്ടിക്കേണ്ടതും ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് എന്റെ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതൻ അവതരിപ്പിച്ച പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ ശക്തിയായി പിന്താങ്ങുകയും കമ്മിറ്റിയിൽ വിദഗ്ദ്ധന്മാരെ ചേർക്കണമെന്നു് പ്രത്യേകം ആവശ്യപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Minister for Revenue)*: Yesterday the Minister for Food and Education was explaining to the council that in the matter of finding out solutions in respect of the problems connected with the lands the Government is one with the mover of the resolution that a committee is necessary. The only point where there is a difference of opinion is with regard to the question whether the personnel of the committee should be confined to this House or whether other gentlemen outside the House can also be taken. I do not think there will be difference of opinion that persons who are conversant with and have taken a deep interest in agrarian problems ought to be members of the committee to be appointed. There are very many questions relating to land. How to reduce the indebtedness of the agriculturists, how to make agriculture a profitable profession in life, how to get plenty of manure which is essential for agriculture, how to improve the agricultural implements, how to get sufficient quantity of water for agriculture what can the Government do to help the poor and indebted agriculturists, what are the legislative measures necessary to enable the cultivators of the soil to take an abiding and sustaining interest in the improvement of the land, how to improve the standard of living of the tiller of the soil. These and other problems of a similar nature have to be seriously pondered and solutions have to be found. All these require proper handling profound knowledge and rich experience in those who want to find out solutions for the problem set forth above. I am afraid that the members of this Council alone will not be able to find out proper solutions. Therefore the Government think that persons outside the council who are conversant with the problems and who have vast experience and knowledge may also be included in the committee so that the solutions proposed may lie more acceptable and more weighty.

***Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon** *(Cheruthuruthi)*: Sir, I am glad that there is a unanimity on the merits of the resolution that I have tabled. But when I ponder over the chances of the decision being inplemented by Government I do not feel so much competent especially in the light of the discussion we had on the appointment of Committees constituted by this House. You know, Sir, how my friend was attempting to make a reference to the personnel of the Committee. But I leave that matter entirely with the Government. I am only anxious, Sir, that the Government should constitute a Committee, not of the type we had, experience of

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member

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in the matter of the Enquiry in the Azhicode incident. I would very much stress upon my Hon'ble friend to see that it is a real Committee that is constituted. Of course, I am laying emphasise because of this fact, and that is we find that this House has unanimously pressed for the Constitution of a Committee in regard to the Azhicode matter, and you know what sort of a Committee that we got. We prayed for a loaf and we got a stone. Now that sort of shelving should not be resorted to because it is a very dangerous matter. I said if I remember right, during the Vrischigam or Makaram meeting last year, that I anticipated about the possibility of a resolution. Of course, we had nothing here. We had it in a neighbouring State, and that should be an eye-opener to us. This bull of revolution should be caught by the horns so that you can aver this sort of good-aism. It is absolutely necessary that a good Committee should be appointed especially in view of the fact that this resolution has been unanimously passed by all sections of this House. I do understand the difficulties of the Ministers. Of course what ever you may say however much you may emphasise that we have got 90 per cent responsible Government or say even 99·9 per cent has been transferred. I would say that, one per cent remaining outside forms the soul of the Government. Sir, is it not the fact that this, one per cent is acting as a soul force in the working of the Government, even though we have got really four Ministers. In the matter of the Azhicode incident it is that soul which has been the reckoning factor. It is to that soul also I make an appeal and with that appeal I will conclude my reply. I do not think there is any necessity for me to impress upon the Government the necessity for the appointment of the Committee because it has been accepted by them. I therefore beg leave of the House to withdraw the resolution.

Resolution, by leave, withdrawn

7. Necessity for transfer of Law and Order and Finance to popular control

Mrs. T. Francis *(Women-Ernakulam):* Sir, I move that *"This Council recommends to the Government to arrrange to hand over immediately to the Representatives of the people those departments which deal with Law and Order and also Finance, thus making them fully responsible for the administration of the State."* The House as a rule, I mean the non-official members of the House, will welcome this Resolution. The Government has already handed over to people's representatives very many important Departments more than that used to be hitherto. From Chingam we are having very many important Departments in the hands of Ministers of the people. I feel responsible Government has not reached. It is somewhere about, but we are not able to catch it. The covetous bird is within our reach, but we are not having an actual catch of the bird. As my friend the Hon'ble Member for Cheruthuruthi has wisely stated that bird is the soul of the Government. The Government has already pronounced that the Ministers hitherto have been managing their affairs very satisfactorily, their Ministerial Governments very satisfactory (hear, hear). In spite of all that the people feel that they should be managed much more satisfactorily. The present state of affairs may be satisfactory to the reserved half of the Government but it is not to the satisfaction of the people. How can popular Ministers satisfactorily govern without finance? They may want to do ever so many things to the people, but they cannot do them because the key of the treasure is not with them. So that they are unable to carry out what they want really to do to the people. Many a vital thing which are required for the good of the country cannot be managed by the popular Ministers. The popular Ministers, according to me, are handicapped, because funds are not with them. They may want to open a new road, to take water from this side of Ernakulam to the other side and they may want to do ever so many things. How can they be able to do these? Because of the want of control of the treasury of the land they cannot do what they and the people want. Sir, unless and until this key is gladly handed over to the responsible Government, things cannot be managed satisfactorily. The poverty and the hungry stomach of the man in fact and every depressing thing will disappear if the finances are transferred to the control of the popular Minister. I do not think that a cabinet in the true sense of the term has been formed by the Diwan of Cochin with-our four Ministers. Of course the Ministers may be agreeing in all matters. But if I explain the position strictly I think that the Diwan has a right of veto and things cannot be carried out properly and their desires cannot be achieved. That is no fault of theirs. Finance is the thing that is most essential and is one that must come first. Then the other things can be regulated.

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